

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
-----181103Z 077484 /14-R

P R 180911Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WSHDC PRIORITY 886

ERDA HQ WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 0498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG TECH TGEN IR

SUBJ: PRESS REPORT ON IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMS: LOS  
ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE ARTICLE

REF A. STATE 6244 (NOTAL) B. STATE 6245 (NOTAL) C. WIRELESS FILE

11 JAN 1977, STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT PROMPTLY CALLING DISTORTED  
LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE TO OUR ATTENTION. IN MEETINGS IN  
RECENT DAYS WITH ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN (AEOI)  
OFFICIALS THEY HAVE NOT BROUGHT UP THIS TIME. HOWEVER, SHOULD  
THE AEOI MENTION THIS BIT OF JOURNALISM (WHICH IN OUR VIEW IS  
HIGHLY IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING) THEN EMBASSY INTENDS TO REPLY  
ALONG SAME LINES AS CITED BY DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN--  
NAMELY THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT IRAN HAS NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
INTENTIONS, THE GOI IS A PARTY TO THE NPT, AND WE ACCEPT THESE  
ASSURANCES.

2. IN COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF A-76 VERSUS TEXT OF L.A.  
TIMES REPORT, IT IS CLEAR THERE WAS NO STATEMENT IN AIRGRAM  
THAT IRAN IS PLANNING TO DEVELOP AN ATOMIC BOMB. IN FACT,  
THE A-76 SAYS, "THE GOI HAS STATED REPEATEDLY THAT IT HAS  
NO AMBITIONS TO BECOME A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE. IRAN HAS  
SIGNED AND RATIFIED THE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)  
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AND HAS ACCEPTED CONTROLS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) OVER THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS AND  
MATERIAL WITHIN ITS SOVEREIGNTY. IT HAS, IN ADDITION, PRO-  
POSED THE CREATION OF A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST. FURTHERMORE, IRANIANS ASK THE MORE SKEPTICAL OF  
THEIR FRIENDS, 'AGAINST WHOM SHOULD WE ARM OURSELVES WITH  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS? CONVENTIONAL ARMS SERVE OUR PURPOSES

ADEQUATELY'."

3. AS PART OF THE GOI'S AMBITIOUS NUCLEAR PROGRAM,  
FOR PEACEFUL POWER GENERATION PURPOSES AND DESALINATION,  
IT IS FACTUAL THAT THE AEOI IS VERY ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING  
TO SECURE URANIUM SUPPLIES FOR THE FUTURE--BOTH FROM  
DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO CALL JIDDA'S ATTENTION  
(IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO) TO ASSERTION IN THE  
ARTICLE THAT THE SAUDIS, WORRIED ABOUT IRAN, "ARE SCRAMBLING  
TO DEVELOP SOME KIND OF NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN."  
THAT ASSERTION TOO IS ATTRIBUTED TO UNIDENTIFIED "STATE  
DEPARTMENT SOURCES."

5. COMMENT: WE CANNOT BUT DEPLORE WHAT WE ASSUME TO  
BE AN UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE OF A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT TO  
THE PRESS. EVEN MORE IRRESPONSIBLE, HOWEVER, IS THE  
PORTRAYAL OF THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AS THE BASIS FOR  
SPECULATION AND INNUENDO WHICH ARE PRECISELY CONTRARY  
TO THE THRUST OF THE REPORT AND THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM.  
IT IS APPRECIATED THAT THIS IS NEITHER THE FIRST TIME NOR  
THE LAST TIME THAT CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS SOMEHOW BECOME  
AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS AND THAT GENERALLY LITTLE POINT MAY  
BE SEEN TO CAVILLING ABOUT IT. IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE,  
HOWEVER, WE WOULD HOPE THAT AN APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL OF THE  
DEPARTMENT COULD REGISTER WITH THE REPORTER OUR SENSE OF  
HIS IRRESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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